



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The largest winter supply of fresh and frozen fish on record, at least in the eastern half of the country, is forecast by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries as a result of mounting catches by the New England fishing fleet, a record-breaking quantity of frozen fish in storage, and recent increases in imports from Canada.

The prediction is based on a survey undertaken by the Coordinator's Office to assess potential supplies of fresh fish during the coming months as a basis for recommendations to the Office of Price Administration concerning the modification or suspension of price ceilings on fresh fish.

Although the number of vessels fishing out of New England -- center of the fresh fish industry -- was sharply reduced early in the war by the requisitioning of many of the largest and most productive boats for war service, new construction and return of vessels no longer needed by the Navy has now restored its productive capacity to the level of 1941. New boats to be added soon will result in still larger catches, officials of the Coordinator's Office said.

Landings at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland had reached a total of 385,098,000 pounds by November 1, an increase of nearly 32,000,000 pounds over the same period last year. It was estimated that during the winter season, the catch will be 90 to 95 million pounds larger than in 1943-44, provided weather conditions are normal and production is not reduced by strikes or other controversies.

Available supplies of fish this winter will be further increased by large frozen stocks in all parts of the country, which totaled 131,618,000 pounds on October 1, or about 33,000,000 pounds above the average holdings for this season of the year.

In addition to domestic production, increased quantities of fresh and frozen fish are now coming into the United States from Canada, a trend which is expected to continue in the post-war period.